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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE GROUP

INTELLIGENCE REPORT

COUNTRY Lebanon

SUBJECT Visit of Archbishop [redacted] to Beirut
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SUPPLEMENT [redacted]

1. Gregorios, Archbishop of Leningrad, accompanied by a suite of clerics, including the chief secretary of Patriarch Alexei of Moscow, arrived in Beirut by air on Friday 15 November. The party went immediately to Damascus to visit Patriarch Alexander.
2. Gregorios returned to Beirut on 18 November for a brief two day visit. He is leaving immediately for Palestine, accompanied by Archimandrite Simeon Nikitin.
3. The Greek Orthodox Archbishop of Beirut, Elie Salibi, gave an official reception on 19 November to Gregorios. It is reported that the object of Gregorios' trip was to prepare the way for calling an Ecumenical Council of the Church in Moscow in May 1947. The Council will be held under the auspices of the Soviet Government, which is also paying all expenses of the trip for the other Patriarchs and their staffs.
4. Gregorios concluded a speech to Salibi by saying: "We are with you in our thoughts and in our prayers, and we will always work together in harmony."

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